

MEMBER UNITS EXHIBIT NUMBER 64

MINUTES

CITY OF LOMPOC - CACHUMA PROJECT MEMBERS NEGOTIATIONS POLICY COMMITTEES

December 19, 1994 - 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers, Lompoc City Hall
100 Civic Center Plaza, Lompoc

Members Present:

Joyce Howerton, City of Lompoc
Harold (Rusty) Fairly, City of Santa Barbara
John Gilmour, Carpinteria Water District
Jay Fisher, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District
John Singer, Goleta Water District
Jan Abel, Montecito Water District
Matt Loudon, Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District, I.D. #1

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Changes to the Agenda None
2. Approval of Minutes of June 15, 1994 Meeting

The minutes were approved as submitted.

3. Report on Status of Technical Analyses and Proposed Study Plan

Dave Schuster gave a summary of the work of the Technical Committees. He noted that the Technical Committees had first addressed the issue of the effect of the Cachuma Project on the amount of recharge to the Lompoc groundwater basin and reached a fairly close agreement on this issue. He said attention was then turned to the effort to find management alternatives that would provide benefits for all parties involved, putting aside the issue what impacts are or are not being caused by the Cachuma Project. It was this effort to led to the development of the proposed Study Plan, which he summarized. He stated that initial work shows the potential for very significant positive impacts to be derived from pumping poor quality shallow groundwater and discharging it to the ocean or retreating it for other local use.

Mr. Gilmour asked whether the USGS model was available for use in addition to Mr. Durbin's model. Mr. Keefe said that the USGS model has a flaw in it which USGS is attempting to correct. Ms. Howerton reminded the Technical Committees that the voters of Lompoc had voted against State Water, whether through the "front door or the back door." Mr. Schuster responded that any solutions would require a consensus of all parties in order to move forward. Mr. Singer inquired whether Ms. Howerton was suggesting that some of the identified options should not be considered options. Ms. Howerton responded that she

understood the value of looking at all alternatives and was not opposed to proceeding with a study of all alternatives, but she had to keep the voters' message in mind. Mr. Fischer inquired whether the vote had been against *paying* for State Water or against State Water. Ms. Howerton said that economics, reliability, and water quality were reasons for the vote against State Water. Mr. Fischer noted that costs and reliability would not be an issue if State Water were used as an exchange for existing downstream releases.

Ms. Howerton stated that she was prepared to proceed with the Study Plan. Mr. Fairly asked for a clarification on the repayment of Above Narrows account as noted on Page 3, Item C of the Study Plan. Mr. Schuster noted that the intent would be to have all parties come out unharmed in the process of changing the way releases from Cachuma are made.

4. Proposed Principles of Agreement/Interim Agreement

Ms. Howerton introduced Bob Pike. Mr. Pike noted that the context for his discussion was the renegotiation of the Cachuma Project contract and the Cachuma Project Authority's desire to cooperate in the development of solutions that would allow for the Board of Supervisors to assign the Cachuma Project contract to the Cachuma Project Authority. He said it had become apparent that such solutions are not simple to identify and develop into an agreement, and are likely to take more time than is available, since the Cachuma contract renewal negotiations are moving forward. Because of this, he said the Cachuma Project members wanted to put forth positive evidence of a proposal that would be of value to Lompoc and would allow Lompoc to make a positive commitment with respect to the Cachuma contract negotiation process. He noted that two documents had been distributed for consideration by the Policy Committees, the first a simple outline of deal points that might go into an agreement, might be beneficial to Lompoc, and might result in some forward progress on Cachuma contract negotiations. The second attempts to provide details about how an agreement might be reached given the short time frame of the Cachuma contract renegotiation, by providing for the continuation of the Study Plan with regional participation and for some potential positive benefit to Lompoc basin through a trial exchange of higher quality water for water from the Below Narrows Account. Mr. Pike acknowledged that neither the Cachuma Members Policy Committee nor the joint Policy Committees had reviewed the documents prior to the meeting. He said they were presented at this time to give some tools in order to come to some closure regarding the original agreement that prompted the negotiations between Lompoc and the CPA members. Ms. Howerton indicated that the proposed agreement would be taken under consideration.

5. Other Business Mr. Keefe announced that both the Lompoc City Council and the CPA Board had acted to extend the agreement until December 15, 1995. Mr. Fairly raised a question about the purpose of the Policy Committee meetings and what type of short term and long term progress could be expected in light of the fact that the anticipated analysis had not been completed. Mr. Pike responded that the short-term solution might be the offer of Lompoc to allow CPA the freedom to negotiate with the Bureau of Reclamation in exchange for the commitment to continue the development of the information outlined in the Study

Plan and the trial exchange of water as contained in the proposed agreement. He noted that any short-term agreement would most likely not be focused on any one of the proposed management solutions, but on an effort to more fully explore the range of possible options. He also noted that delay in reaching such a short-term agreement much beyond January 1995 would mean that the motivation for such an agreement would be gone.

Ms. Howerton suggested that the next meeting of the Policy Committees be scheduled in mid to late January. Mr. Somach encouraged the Policy Committee members to address the relevant policy issues sooner rather than later. Mr. Singer noted that he shared Mr. Fairly's concern about the direction of the Policy Committees and suggested a more active role in giving direction to the Technical Committees. Mr. Gilmour noted that he does not know what Lompoc's aversions to State Water are and that he felt the Policy Committees should know more about this for the next meeting to determine whether solutions involving State Water have any real potential. Ms. Howerton responded that the Lompoc City Council would have a response to this question prepared and sent out in advance of the next meeting. Mr. Gilmour asked whether the group could expect to have a conceptual answer about whether Lompoc would consider an exchange of State Water for Cachuma Project water. Ms. Howerton responded that Lompoc would discuss that issue in depth. Mr. Fairly added that it has not been clear to him specifically what Lompoc is asking for in the negotiations. Ms. Howerton responded that the improved exchange of information through the Technical Committees has been of benefit to Lompoc as well as the other participants.

6. Public Comment None

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the Policy Committees would aim to meet again at 7:00 p.m. on January 23, 1995 in Santa Barbara.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

